

SPECIAL FORM OF CHINESE PROPAGANDA: A BOOKLET ON STALIN
(Vjesnik, Zagreb, March 9, 1962)

Moscow, March 8: - I had the opportunity the other day to see a small booklet with only fourteen pages. The title is "J. V. Stalin, our great leader and teacher". Incidentally there were scores of such booklets once and it would be no wonder to find them even today in a library or in a second-hand bookshop. The point is, however, that it is neither a library nor a second-hand copy. The year of publication is written on the cover of the booklet: 1961. The booklet was actually published in December of last year in connection with the seventy-fourth anniversary of Stalin's birth. The publisher is: "The press in foreign languages, Peking".

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The copy I saw bore the inscription "Printed in PR China" in English. From what I heard, I gathered that such booklets had been sent to leaders and prominent members of various communist parties - in their respective languages.

It seems that this is one of the forms of the paper-war activity of the Chinese leadership among members of other parties in connection with the stands of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The booklet reveals also the method of this propaganda-polemical activity: it contains no direct reference to the opposing stands. Only an introduction of one page was written in recent time, while everything else are quotations of earlier date.

The introduction says that the members of communist and workers' parties were celebrating on December 21st "the anniversary of the great figure of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and of the Soviet states and of the great Marxist and Leninist".


Having listed Stalin's "merits" the author writes: "It is true that Stalin has made mistakes; he has not been a semi-God or wanted to be this either. But, does not every Marxist leader make mistakes sometimes? - It is just because we know that there are no semi-Gods and that every person may make small or great mistakes, that we the communists are not availing ourselves of criticisms and self-criticisms? Has it been impossible, in a country which introduced the first the dictatorship of the proletariat and which was unable to use even that any experience, to make any mistakes in this or that sense?"

After this defence, the author again insists upon Stalin's "merits".

Then come three chapters of the booklet: The Leader of the People, The Teacher, and The Watchful Defender of Marxism-Leninism. In these chapters are printed quotations from speeches and articles by the most responsible contemporary leaders of the Soviet party and of other parties. All the quotations are from the period before Stalin's death. The persons who have compiled these facts have quoted them in such a manner that the conclusion might be reached from each chapter that

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the leaders who are quoted had recognized Stalin and his merits as: firstly, "The Leader of the Nation", secondly "The Teacher" and thirdly "The Defender of Marxism-Leninism". Enver Hoxha opens the series of quotations and he is followed by all prominent names from the present party leadership of bloc countries, especially of the European part.

A quotation from an article in the paper Jen Min Jih Pao in 1956, which speaks about Stalin's role and the Soviet development, is printed as the conclusion of this series of "testimonies of the honesty and great worth of comrade Stalin". Stalin's picture is on one side of the paper cover while on the back there is a drawing, in the Chinese style, of the large Kremlin hall, showing Stalin and Mao Tse Tung walking in the first plan, followed by Molotov and Chou En-Lai. Vishinsky is seen in the background.

Naturally, the topical disputes and polemics between the Soviet and Chinese leaders are over far broader and far more important questions than those contained in this booklet. The booklet speaks more about the existence of differences rather than about their substance, and it reveals the methods and means which Peking is applying in this polemics.

(M. D.)

(Signed) F. Barbigeri

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